

ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

Date

29 Apr

TO: (Name, office symbol, room number,
building, Agency/Post)

Initials

Date

1.

DD/Pers

29 APR 1983

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Action	File	Note and Return
Approval	For Clearance	Per Conversation
As Requested	For Correction	Prepare Reply
Circulate	For Your Information	See Me
Comment	Investigate	Signature
Coordination	Justify	

REMARKS

1) This is the type of effort mentioned that is being made on retroactive spouse legislation.

D/Pers
83-1115

DO NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disposals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM: (Name, org. symbol, Agency/Post)

Room No.—Bldg.

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Phone No.

5041-102

OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)
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☆ GPO : 1981 O - 341-529 (120)

STAT

Retirement Changes
from page 1

Legislation on Pension-sharing

- Why destroy a healthy fund merely to extend for one more year the ailing Social Security fund? The federal government did not contribute its share for the first 35 years of its existence. Why make another fund pay for that mistake? If the Foreign Service fund loses new contributors because they have to contribute to Social Security instead, the Foreign Service fund will be exhausted in 40 years.
- The Foreign Service is more like the military (which is exempt from these proposals) than it is like the Civil Service. It is similar to the military in that it provides its own tough recruitment and selection out process and that its retirement system is an integral part of its personnel system. Civil Service retirement is not related to its hiring and retention policies.
- Just three years ago, Congress studied the entire Foreign Service personnel system and made needed changes. The entire system designed in the Foreign Service Act of 1980 would be destroyed by the changes.
- There is no evidence that these changes are needed. Our Foreign Service trust fund is solvent and under the present system will last for 75 to 100 more years.
- Under the present system, a spouse receives 55% of the employee's pension as a survivor annuity. This annuity could be cut in half under the new system.
- The present retirement fund has been cited as the reason not to grant pay comparability to private industry. If the retirement annuity is to be cut, then salaries should be raised.
- Recruitment and retention of Foreign Service nationals working in our missions overseas will be drastically reduced since the prime incentive now for staying is the Civil Service pension one would receive upon retiring.

Address all correspondence to congressmen in care of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515 and to senators in care of the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. Any congressman's or senator's office can be telephoned through the U.S. Capitol operator, (202)225-3121.

Sue Parsons, AAFSW President, will testify before the Subcommittee on International Operations of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on various amendments affecting Foreign Service families, including the pension-sharing provision. The Subcommittee is considering amendments to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 as part of the FY84 budget authorization for the Department of State. AAFSW is interested in including former spouses who were left out when the pension-sharing provision was originally written.

AAFSW has been attempting to educate Congress in recognizing this oversight. Once the FY84 authorization bill comes to the floor of the House for consideration, we want to have enough congressmen adequately briefed on this urgent need, so that an amendment to the Act would succeed. Letters need to be written now. Calls and visits to staff aides need to be planned. The Women in Transition Network is considering an all-day trip to the Hill to present their views. Those interested in participating should call Mary Melrose, 244-4671.

Those wishing to write to a representative may want to include the following points:

- The group is finite. As of now, 65-70 former spouses have been identified. Because the entire Foreign Service community is relatively small, it is estimated that the final total would not exceed 200.
- Because so few former spouses are involved, the cost would be small. In addition, Congress already has recognized the vested right to an appropriate share for any Foreign Service spouse who was divorced subsequent to the Act. Those divorced prior to the enactment of the Act, who performed the same services overseas, with fewer outside opportunities to earn mon-

ey toward retirement, should thus have the same right to a pension share. The cost to the federal government in payments of an annuity, would be far less than the welfare costs that the federal government might be forced to pay to some who might become destitute later in life.

- We do not wish to deprive a present wife of any survivor annuity. We wish payments to be made similar to the way shares are provided under Social Security.
- Social Security is not presently being received by most of these spouses because few paid into Social Security. Their only source of income is what alimony they have been granted and what income they can earn in the relatively few years they have left to work.

It is important that this information be brought forward now. When writing a congressman or senator it is helpful to describe one's unique circumstances. Tell him how many years you were married, how many years were spent overseas, what services were performed, what health problems were contracted by yourself and family, the hardships undergone and any other facts that demonstrate the worthiness of help.

Mary Melrose

Donations Welcome for Bookfair 83

Books, stamps and art objects are needed for BOOKFAIR 83. Although this year's donations have kept pace with those of other years, daily sales in the Bookroom have diminished our stock. Fiction, non-fiction, hard cover and paperback books are in great demand. AAFSW members are urged to search their shelves to make early donations.

Overseas members are asked to be alert for inexpensive, decorative art objects as well as special issue stamps and first-day covers.

The Bookroom has become a popular stop-off place for book browsing and buying after lunch. The Bookroom, located in Room 1524, next to the Cafeteria, is closed Wednesday, but is open every other day of the week from 2 to 3 p.m.

For more information or to arrange for home collection, call Maggy Morse, Bookroom Supervisor, 223-5796.

Reaching Out to Youth

The Volunteer Clearinghouse of Washington, D.C. is searching for high school and college students who want to enhance their learning by volunteering. The Clearinghouse is seeking students to work in a variety of areas such as social worker aides, recreation aides or office workers. Those interested in horticulture, helping kids and older people, or just helping in general are also needed.

The staff at the Clearinghouse will help find a volunteer job that is right for you. Call them at 638-2664.